# The Mormons.

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BY

Rev. E. O. Guerrant, D. D

Presbyterian Committee of Publication, Richmond, Va

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REV. E. O. GUERRANT, D. D.

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# THE MORMONS.

My reply to your request to write something about the Mormons has been delayed by other matters, and the hope that more competent hands would do it. The conviction that somebody should expose this monster iniquity of the century, only, impels me to comply with your kind request.

I shall have time now only to give an outline of their origin and teachings. It would take volumes to fully set forth the history of this modern abomination.

I feel confident that many of our people do not know the character of this body, nor the magnitude of the effort it is making to spread its doctrines. General Eaton (Ex-Commissioner of Education of the United States) says that their missionaries are estimated to number *two thousand, three hundred.*

I know they are travelling all over our land, two by two, canvassing every school district, distributing their literature, and preaching in

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public school-houses, contrary to our law, which says, "*No sectarian, infidel* or *immoral* doctrine shall be taught in our school-houses." I have met them in the most distant and inaccessible parts of the mountains. "They compass sea and land to make one proselyte." They have more missionaries in Kentucky (and probably in every Southern State) than all other denominations together. They have members in every State and Territory but five, and have scores of missionaries in foreign lands, and are winning perverts to their faith by thousands. Of course, they are mostly among the poor and ignorant classes, but *they have souls,* and constitute the mass of mankind.

## ORIGIN.

As is well known, the founder of this sect was Joseph Smith, who was born in Vermont in 1805, but brought up in New York, at Palmyra. His mother was an ignorant and superstitious fortune-teller, and his neighbors pronounced him "an ignorant, idle youth, given to chicken stealing." He could not write, though he could read, and his favorite books were "*Capt. Kidd, the Pirate,*" and "*Stephen*

*Burroughs, the Clerical Scoundrel.*" How naturally his after life took the complexion of his early companions. His associates in starting his Church were Sidney Rigdon, a backsliding preacher, and Parley P. Pratt, a travelling tin-peddler—all unscrupulous, cunning and characterless. They were followed by Brigham Young, whom Judge Goodwin (editor of the *Salt Lake Tribune*) describes as "*the worst of men;* intellectually he was not bright, but he was full of animal magnetism; and though his heart was that of a sheep, there was a great deal of wolf in his forehead; possessing a stubbornness that never yielded, and a plausible tongue. His avarice was measureless. He never looked on without coveting his neighbor's fair wife, good horse, or profitable investments." From such a source nothing but Mormonism could proceed, and it is worthy of its parentage.

The so-called "Book of Mormon," is a *romance* entitled "The Manuscript Found," written by an invalid Congregational preacher named Solomon Spaulding, of Ohio, but never published. It gives in Biblical style a fanciful history of the Mound-builders, a peo-

ple who are supposed to have preceded the Indians in the Ohio Valley. This manuscript fell into the hands of Smith or Rigdon (stolen probably), and was grossly altered to suit their purpose. This is the Book of Mormon. The Mormon Bible is a sacrilegious imitation of the Holy Bible—changed to suit the revolting doctrines of the new faith of its founders.

"Joe" Smith was killed by his indignant and outraged neighbors, at Carthage, Ill., in 1844. Pratt was killed in Arkansas in 1856 for stealing a man's wife. Rigdon was expelled from the *Mormon* Church and given over to Satan by *Brigham Young!*

## DOCTRINE.

For doctrine the Mormon Church rests on two pillars—*Polytheism* and *Polygamy*—twin relics of heathenism, *many gods* and *many wives.* Take these away, and it falls like the temple of Dagon.

*Adam* is the Mormon God, and all the rest of their gods were men, and became gods by practicing polygamy. They teach that "God, angels and men are all of one species."

They teach that the "Holy Ghost is a *man,*

one of the sons of our Father and our God." I quote their own language.

Their whole system is idolatrous man worship. They teach that their gods are polygamists; that Jesus Christ had three wives.

Again, their chief god changes his mind when it suits him (or them), as he did in once denouncing polygamy (in 1830), and afterwards recommending it (in 1843) to accommodate Joseph Smith.

It is the fashion of their missionaries to deny these well-known facts; and especially their well-known practice of polygamy. But this is of a piece with their whole system of deception in beguiling the ignorant into their net. They are "wolves in sheep's clothing."

Rev. Dr. Wishard, of Salt Lake City, says that polygamy is *fundamental to the system;* that "it is *now* taught and practiced in all the towns of Utah, where it has ever been practiced." "The assertion that polygamy is dead would produce a smile on the face of an honest Mormon." This is the recent testimony of a distinguished clergyman who knows them well. "To live our religion, is to live in polygamy," said their priest, McAlister.

John D. Lee, for thirty-seven years a Mormon Bishop and priest, who was executed for murder, confessed that he had *nineteen* wives, and *sixty-four* children.

"The (Mormon) *Saints"* (they call themselves the "Latter-day Saints") "have made Utah a modern Sodom, and the paradise of libertines." This is the testimony of *Judge Boreman,* for eight years associate judge of the Supreme Bench of Utah, and before whom Bishop John D. Lee was tried before he was executed. It was Lee that led the Mountain Meadow Massacre, in which more than one hundred and twenty innocent emigrants were murdered, and their property taken in 1857.

Of course, you would not expect to find truth or sobriety or other virtues in such company. So we are told that *profanity* and *perjury* are almost universal. A resident of Salt Lake City challenged any Mormon to produce a single case where a Mormon was ever cut off from his Church for murder, theft, lying, drunkenness, fornication, profanity, or Sabbath breaking. Miss Mary Cort (who taught five years in Utah) told me she never knew a Mormon who would tell the truth when it would convict another Mormon.

Prof. Coyner, for many years superintendent of Salt Lake Collegiate Institute, says, "Business has thrown me among all classes of society in various parts of the world, but the most profane and vulgar address I ever listened to, I heard delivered by Brigham Young"—the Mormon high priest and prophet.

"No pen can describe the demoralizing effect upon the young, nor adequately set forth the lack of morality on the part of a vast majority of young men and women who are brought up in connection with it. In fact, they don't seem *to know what the term morality means.*" So says Rev. Dr. McNiece, for many years pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Salt Lake City.

Of course, hatred and persecution naturally belong to such a system. And from the beginning they have waged an unrelenting warfare against all others.

Their creed teaches disloyalty to all civil government, and the President of the United States had to remove Brigham Young from being Governor of Utah, and appoint a law-abiding citizen of Georgia in his place.

Private murder by their "blood avengers," culminated at last in the "Mountain Meadow Massacre," when John D. Lee, a Mormon elder, with a band of Mormons and Indians, in Southern Utah, murdered, in cold blood, one hundred and twenty men, women and children, emigrating from Arkansas to California. This man, inspired by Brigham Young, was shot at last by the United States authorities, after twenty years' delay by the Mormons, who prevented his earlier conviction. The penalty for revealing the secrets of the Endowment House, where all marriages are celebrated, is to "have your throat cut from ear to ear, and your tongue torn from your mouth."

Their vindictive spirit may be learned from this expression of one of their apostles, "I do pray for our enemies. I pray that God will damn them and send them down to hell." Such is the *spirit* of Mormonism.

"The degradation of Mormonism falls more heavily upon woman than upon man," says General Eaton. She is made the tool and the slave of his greed and lust. She cannot live on earth except as a concubine, nor enter heaven at all, except by marriage. "I have

shed tears enough since I have been in polygamy to drown myself twice over." This is the language of a Mormon wife—of the Prophet himself. Another said, "The plains from Missouri to this valley are strewn with the bones of those whom this system has killed, and the cemetery on the hill is full of them, but every one of these women is now wearing a martyr's crown."

Is anything else necessary to damn such a system? You wonder that it could exist at all in this country of ours. But remember, the great majority of its adherents are very ignorant and poor people, and many are foreigners who cannot read our language; many are sincere and honest in their belief because they are enslaved by wicked and designing teachers.

But I weary you, and have no space to say anything of the tyranny of their priesthood, nor the greed of their tithing system, with an income of a million a year and no account given of it, nor of their celestial marriages (of the *living* to the *dead*), nor their baptism for the dead—nor their doctrine of "blood atonement" which taught that a man might be murdered to save his soul. These are some, not all,

of the tenets of this monstrous crime of the nineteenth century—this open sore of the world!

I do not wonder that Rev. Dr. McNiece says, "Let Paganism, Judaism, Jesuitism, Protestantism and Diabolism be shaken up and the result is *Mormonism.*"

God's description of this abomination is found in 2 Peter ii.

To his hands we confidently commit its overthrow, and pray for our country and our children.

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